

was thus displaying his system of perfidy and revenge at the city of Caracas, his agents were pursuing the same measures throughout every village and town of that extensive country.

The catalogue of horrors committed by those agents is of so long and disgusting a nature, that we forbear to enter into a detail of them; suffice it to say, that one of the common methods of punishing those who had been employed under Miranda, or were suspected of disaffection to the Spanish government, was to mutilate their persons in a manner so shocking, that it is necessary to have seen, as the author has done, these unfortunate wretches, to believe that such horrors could be perpetrated even by the most brutal savages.

The reader will bear in mind, that these dreadful outrages, as well as the violation of the capitulation, are matters of such notoriety, that neither the Spanish government, nor its subjects, have ever attempted to palliate the accounts of them which have been published; but, on the contrary, have not only, by the infamous decree of the Cortes of the 10th of April, 1813, openly sanctioned the violation of such capitulations, but subsequently have approved of all the horrors committed by Monteverde,

by decreeing him high military and civil honours.

If our limits would permit, we could enumerate many instances of capitulations violated and royal indultos disregarded, by the Spanish authorities; but we have confined ourselves to the two breaches of good faith in the cases of Caracas and Soto la Marina, because they were accompanied by such a flagrant departure from principles held sacred even by the rudest nations of the world, and by so profligate an exercise of wanton cruelty upon the Creoles, that every impartial reader must unite with us in execrating the government and its agents, who have dared to perform such acts in the nineteenth century.

For such enormities no common retribution can atone, and already thousands of Spaniards have fallen victims to the spirit of retaliation excited among the Creoles by the barbarous and impolitic conduct of the Spanish government; we say impolitic, because such scenes have tended not only to make reconciliation between the European Spaniards and the Creoles almost impossible at the present day, but even admitting a conciliation was now to take place, it can never be sincere or durable be-



*tween the parties.* We shall conclude this chapter, by stating a solemn proof of the extent of this spirit of retributive vengeance among the Creoles; and it is among the proofs not received solely from public documents, but to which the author was an eye-witness.

In the latter part of the year 1813, or in the beginning of that of 1814, General Bolivar, the republican chief of Venezuela, had retaken nearly the whole of the country, and had penned up the Spaniards in the city of Puerto Cavello. Bolivar at that time had in his possession more than *thirteen hundred European Spaniards prisoners.* The royalists had likewise in their hands, at Puerto Cavello, *about three hundred and fifty Creole prisoners.* Notwithstanding this disproportion of numbers, Bolivar repeatedly offered to deliver up the whole of his European prisoners, in exchange for the three hundred and fifty Creoles.

These offers were not only rejected, but Bolivar's flags of truce were treated with outrage, and the most insulting answers sent to his proposals. The royal commandant at Puerto Cavello, (his name we believe to be *Istuetta*,) a proud and obstinate Biscayan, was daily employed in shooting a given number of Creole

prisoners, on the ramparts of Puerto Cavello, in full view of Bolivar and his army. The indignation excited by this wanton and outrageous barbarity may easily be conceived. At length Bolivar informed the commandant, that if he persisted in refusing an exchange of prisoners, and continued to sacrifice those under his power, a dreadful retaliation should ensue. This produced no other effect on the barbarous commandant, than an insulting letter to Bolivar, declaring his resolution to put to death every Creole in the fortress. There remained no alternative: Bolivar despatched an order to the governor of the city of Caracas, *to execute every European Spaniard who was confined in that city, or at La Guayra.* This dreadful order was carried into literal and prompt execution, and not more than twenty or thirty of the European Spaniards, who were prisoners, were saved from the terrible sentence.

The author of this work, as well as many other foreigners, was present at the execution of above *eight hundred of these victims at La Guayra.* They were taken out of the dungeons, and conducted in pairs a short distance from the town, and there shot; after which, their bodies were burned. Many of these unfortunate beings,



who knew that their sacrifice was the result of the unfeeling obstinacy and cruelty of the Spanish government and its officers, deliberately conversed on the subject while walking to the place of execution, and several of them uttered the most horrible curses against the authors of their calamities.

We shall, in the next chapter, resume the narrative of Mina's operations at Sombrero.

END OF VOL. I.



